

~~---~~BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Handwritten: C4
Figures 1-3, 8 and 9 present, respectively, the alignments of the M978, 6940, S3032, BZ83 and BZ163 Tbp2 sequences with the IM2169 Tbp2 sequence, to maximum homology. The respective degrees of homology are 78.9, 81.2, 79.6, 71.3 and 81.8 %.

Figure 4 presents the alignments to maximum homology of the sequences of the hinge domains (second domain) of IM2169 (1), 6940 (2), 2223 (3), C708 (4), M978 (5), 1610 (6), 867 (7), S3032 (8) and 891 (9) Tbp2. The numbering of IM2169, as it appears in SEQ ID NO:2, is given in italics. The sequences which may be deleted according to a preferred embodiment appear in bold type. (C) indicates the consensus sequence.

Figures 5 to 7 illustrate the construction of the plasmids pTG5782, pTG5755 and pTG5783, respectively.

Figure 10 presents the alignments to maximum homology of the sequences of the hinge domains (second domain) of IM2169 (1), 2223 (2), 708 (3), M528 (4), 6940 (5), M978 (6), 1610 (7), S3032 (8), 867 (9), BZ83 (10) and BZ163 (11) Tbp2. The numbering of IM2169, as it appears in SEQ ID NO:2, is given in italics. The sequences which may be deleted according to a preferred embodiment appear in bold type. (C) indicates the consensus sequence.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS~~---~~

Page 19: Please ~~delete~~ lines 12-35.

Page 20, line 13, after "OTG4915", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:20)--.

Page 20, line 14, after "OTG4651", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:21)--.

Page 21, before line 1, after "OTG4928", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:22)--, and after "OTG5011", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:23)--.

Page 22, after line 14, after "OTG4873", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:24)--, and after "OTG4877", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:25)--.

Page 23, after line 21, after "A5'", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:26)--, and after "A3'", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:27)--.

Page 24, after line 8, after "2169d1", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:28)--, after "2169d2", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:29)--, after "2169d3", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:30)--, and after "2169d4", please insert --(SEQ ID NO:31)--.

Page 30, line 36, after "GFYGPKE", insert --(SEQ ID NO:43)--.

Page 30, line 39, after "GFYGKNAI", insert --(SEQ ID NO:44)--.

Please substitute the attached Sequence Listing (58 pages) for the sequence listing previously filed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 79-82.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After the last page of claims, please insert the following Abstract:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is directed to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence which is derived from the sequence of the Tbp2

CP subunit of the transferrin receptor of a Neisseria meningitidis strain of type IM2169 or IM2394, whose first, second and a third domains are defined by maximal homology alignment with the sequence of the Tbp2 subunit of the respective reference strain, IM2169 (SEQ ID NO:1) or IM2394 (SEQ ID NO:3) by total or partial deletion of at least one domain of the IM2169- or IM2394-type subunit, provided the first and second domains are not totally deleted simultaneously. The invention is advantageous because these fragments of the Tbp2 subunit are useful for vaccinal purposes.

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants confirm election of Group I, Claims 54-78 and hereby cancel without prejudice Claims 79-83. In addition, in accordance with the requirement of the Examiner, the specification has been amended to include appropriate section headings in the order suggested by the Examiner, and to include reference where necessary for the sequence ID numbers. An Abstract of the Disclosure is also now provided, and Applicants also submit herewith a revised Sequence Listing to include additional sequences inadvertently omitted from the prior sequence listing. Since these amendments were made merely to put the application in proper U.S. form, they do not add any new matter to the application. In light of these amendments, Applicants submit that the present application overcomes the prior rejections of the Examiner for the reasons as set forth below.